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Left-Leaning Reporters

Win All The Big Prizes

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT MOST of the major news media, including the radio and tv networks, lean to the left of center in their political thinking. There are exceptions, of course, Freedom Newspapers, the Chicago Tribune and a few others among them.

But what everybody doesn't know is that executives of the major media and liberal schoolmen usually have a deciding hand in selecting winners of the big prizes in journalism and related fields. The Pulitzer Prize, for instance. In most cases, the judges are hand-picked by means usually spelled out in documents setting up the awards and everything is on the square in that department.

Under these circumstances, it seems safe to assume that these leftist judges would single out the writing or reporting of a fellow liberal for an award and that's exactly what usually happens. It's a sort of closed-shop club and few, if any, writers for conservative papers ever make it. In other words, you've got to be in to win.

WINNERS OF THE ANNUAL GEORGE Polk Memorial Journalism Awards were announced in New York the other day and guess who got the top prize for foreign reporting? Harrison E. Salisbury, the assistant managing editor of the New York Times, who recently did a series of stories on the bombing of "innocent women and children" in North Vietnam by American planes. Sickening, ain't it? Yet they give him an award for it!

A story set out by the New York Times News Service said Salisbury was given the award for a "pioneering news mission" to North Vietnam last December that "contributed a new dimension to coverage of the Vietnam war."

It was a "new dimension" alright. Probably nothing like it has ever been written before and a lot of people are convinced that Salisbury was chosen for the assignment because of the liberal, peace-loving policy of his paper and the big play the series would get. There also are those who believe Salisbury was personally picked by Ho Chi Minh to get over the Viet Cong story in the United States and it very well could be.

BOTH MAJOR WIRE SERVICES and scores of American newspapers have been trying for some time to get reporters in Vietnam but without success. Ho permitted only Salisbury, the Times man, to come in and see the "wanton destruction" of villages by American bombers. Funny, eh? Darn right, it is.

So that's the "new dimension" in news coverage. Thanks, but no thanks, we'll pass.

Ramparts Magazine, a sleazy thing edited by a bunch of egg-headed kids in long pants, also was named as a winner of the Polk Award. In the words of the Times story, "Ramparts . . . was chosen for the magazine reporting award for its explosive revival of the great muckracking tradition." The magazine, you will recall, recently printed a story revealing that the Central Intelligence Agency had financed European study by some members of the National Students Association.

Among the other winners were Murray Kempton of the New York Post; Arnold Gingrich, publisher of Esquire Magazine; and to the "Time Essay" department of Time Magazine.

Recognize any conservatives among them?